

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6696

BILL NUMBER: HB 1139

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 28, 2003

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Physician and Nurse Continuing Education.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Brown C

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: CR Adopted - 1st House

FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
X DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: This bill requires the Medical Licensing Board and the Board of Nursing to adopt rules requiring physicians and nurses to report on license renewal forms any continuing education hours completed during the license renewal period. The bill also allows for random audits for verification of continuing education hours. The bill makes a technical correction.

Effective Date: July 1, 2003.

Explanation of State Expenditures: This bill could increase expenditures of the Health Professions Bureau (HPB). The amount of the increase is unknown and dependent on how the agency notifies license holders of the requirements of this bill, and any additional meetings by the Medical Licensing Board to adopt rules for the reporting of continuing education on renewal forms that are necessary. However, the HPB may experience a decrease in expenditures as the bill no longer requires the agency to notify registered and licensed practical nurses of changes to rules adopted by the Board.

This bill allows the HPB to randomly audit between 1% and 10% of the practitioners who report continuing education hours on the license renewal form. To implement an audit, the Health Professions Bureau indicates that it would need to do the following: create a random audit list, notify the selected practitioners by certified mail, review the verification of completion, and send follow-up correspondence to those who are either in or out of compliance. The added cost of postage (the cost of certified mail is \$2.97) and stationery would depend on the size of the audit sample.

As of November 2002, the HPB employed 51 authorized full-time staff members with 4 vacancies. Ultimately, the source of funds and resources required to satisfy the requirements of this bill will depend

upon legislative and administrative actions.

Explanation of State Revenues: The provisions of this bill could affect revenue collected from license fees of health professionals if the modifications change the number of individuals who qualify for licenses. It is estimated that the overall impact will be minimal. In FY 2002, approximately \$4.4 M in revenue was collected from physicians and nurses for licenses and other fees. License fees collected are deposited in the state General Fund.

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Health Professions Bureau.

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources: Barb McNutt, Health Professions Bureau, (317) 233-4406.

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